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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Medical Officer for Maternity

and Child Welfare

of the

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON,

FOR THE YEAR 1936.

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BOROUGH OF TAUNTON,

FOR THE YEAR 1936.



Public Health Department,  
St. Paul's House,  
Taunton.

10th June, 1937.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the  
Borough of Taunton.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my report on the work of the Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Departments for the Year 1936. This report is compiled to comply with the requirements of the Minister of Health.

The population figure for the middle of the year was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 27,200 which is an increase of 410 on the figure for 1935. I believe that this should be 29,000. The death rate of 12.9 and the birth rate of 13.0 are both slightly higher than those of the preceding year. The Infant Mortality Rate of 53.3 is also higher than that for 1935 but it was lower than that of 55.0 for Smaller Towns. Almost one half of the infant deaths were due to congenital defects and we do not know of any means to prevent these.

The epidemic of Measles which began in the autumn of 1935 continued until the end of March 1936. Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were both unduly prevalent.

Slum Clearance occupied much of my time during the year and four Public Inquiries into objections were held by the Minister of Health.

I have to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and the Health Committee for their encouragement and support, to the Borough Treasurer, the Borough Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer for information supplied and to the Staff of this Department for their loyal co-operation and assistance.

I greatly regret to record the sudden death of Mr. E. C. Farr the Chief Sanitary Inspector on 5th December. He had been in your service for almost twelve years.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,  
JOHN ALLEN.

Medical Officer of Health,  
School Medical Officer and  
Medical Officer for Maternity  
and Child Welfare.

**HEALTH COMMITTEE.**

Chairman—Alderman A. J. West, J.P.

Alderman Lane, J.P.	Councillor A. J. Iles, M.D.
Councillor Bradbury	Councillor Loveys
Councillor Clode	Councillor Southwood
Councillor Goodland, J.P.	Councillor Stainer

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.**

Consists of the Health Committee with the following additional members :—

Alderman F. W. Penny, J.P.	
Councillor S. W. Shepherd	
Dr. W. B. Winckworth	Representing the Medical Profession
Mrs. Fowler	...
Mrs. Adams	... } Representing the Taunton Infant
Mrs. Webber	... } Health Society.
Mrs. Humphries	... } Representing Working Women's
Mrs. Walker	... } Organisations.

**STAFF.**

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| *Medical Officer of Health   | } John Allen, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.   |
| *Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare and                               |                                     |
| *School Medical Officer  |                                     |
| *Medical Officer to Ante-Natal Clinic—Mrs. Marie Ellis, M.D.                       |                                     |
| *Chief Sanitary Inspector—E. C. Farr, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I., died 5th December, 1936. |                                     |
| *Sanitary Inspector (No. 1 District)—P. J. Gough, C.R.S.I.                         |                                     |
| *Sanitary Inspector (No. 2 District)—H. G. Cope, C.R.S.I., from 1st May, 1936.     |                                     |
| Health Visitor   | ... Hilda M. Pain, C.M.B., C.R.S.I. |
| Chief Clerk  | ... G. J. A. Wilkinson.             |
| Clerk...   | ... Miss M. E. Chalk.               |
| Clerk  | ... Miss C. D. F. Selway.           |
| *Salary contributions made by Exchequer Grants or under the Public Health Acts.    |                                     |

**STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1936.**

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	2,434
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	...	...	...	...	...	27,200
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1936) according to the Rate Book	...	...	...	...	...	7,420
Rateable Value (end of 1936)	...	...	...	...	...	£206,731
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£795

**VITAL STATISTICS.**

	M.	F.	Total		
Live births—legitimate	164	180	344	Birth rate per	
„ „ —illegitimate	8	4	12	1,000 of estim-	
				ated population	13.0
	172	184	356		
	M.	F.	Total		
Still births—legitimate	4	5	9	Rate per 1,000	
„ „ —illegitimate	—	—	—	total (live and	
				still) Births	24.6
	4	5	9		
Deaths, after correction for transfers :				Rate per 1,000	
	M.	F.	Total	of estimated	
	171	182	353	population	12.9
Death Rate, after correction by factor 0.87	...	...	...		10.2
Deaths from Puerperal causes :					
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0	Rate per 1,000	
Other puerperal causes			2	(live and still)	
				Births	5.4
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—					
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...		53.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...		49.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...		166.6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...		—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...		—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...		1.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...		55.0
Death Rate from Cancer	...	...	...		2.0
Deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...		14.0
Death Rate from pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...		0.5
Deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...		8.0
Death Rate from non-pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...		0.3

**IN ENGLAND AND WALES 1936.**

Birth Rate (live)	...	...	...	...	...	14.8
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	12.1
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	59.0

**IN SMALLER TOWNS 1936.**

Birth Rate (live)	...	...	...	...	...	15.0
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	11.5
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	55.0



## THE GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

A full description of these was given on pages 8, 9 and 10 of my Report for 1930 and of alterations to certain of these on page 7 of my Report for 1934.

The laboratory of the Somerset County Council removed from Weston-super-Mare to the County Offices, Taunton, in September 1935.

Nursing in the Home—the Taunton District Nursing Association now employ 4 whole time nurses for this purpose.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

During 1936, under the scheme approved in 1934 arrangements were made for :—

The provision of a trained midwife for nine confinements.

The provision of an Obstetric Consultant for three cases.

The provision of Home helps to one case for four weeks and to another for two weeks.

### Births.

The number notified to me under the Notification of Births Act was 396, this included 12 still births.

(legitimate male—5; female 6; illegitimate male—1;  
female 0).

### Infant Mortality.

There were 19 deaths of infants under one year of age, two of these were illegitimate.

About one quarter of these were due to premature birth, while almost one half were due to various congenital defects.

The Infant Mortality Rate was 53.3. This is slightly under the corresponding figure for Smaller Towns, which was 55.

The Neo-natal mortality rate was 44.9.

### The Maternity Home.

The number of cases admitted during the year was 121, and the average duration of stay was 14.23 days.

There were no maternal deaths, but one infant was stillborn and two died within ten days of birth, both being due to congenital defects.

### The Infant Welfare Centre.

This is open on Tuesdays from 2—4 p.m. and on Fridays for one hour from 11 a.m.

It was necessary to continue the extra session on Tuesdays for applicants for free milk until the 21st July when a reduction in the number of applications made it unnecessary, so that of the 51 sessions on Tuesdays eight were shorter ones for this purpose only.

	Tuesday.		Friday.		Total
	No.	Average per session	No.	Average per session	
Sessions held ...	51		42		93
Total consultations	1503	29.4	482	11.4	1985
News cases only ...	154	3.0	46	1.1	200

Forty per cent of the children born during the year were brought to the Centre for consultation.

Two ladies have continued to attend with great regularity in order to weigh the infants and assist with their records. It would not have been possible to deal with the numbers attending without this help.

The Infant Health Society under the direction of Mrs. Fowler has continued to be of assistance by the sale of dried milk and other foods, the running of a sewing class, the provision of tea and the organisation of a yearly outing.

### The Work of the Health Visitor.

The Health Visitor devotes the whole of her time to duties in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare.

During 1936 she made 4,325 visits to homes. These were for the following purposes :—

First Visits.			Re-visits.		
Under one year	...	342	Under one year	...	1259
Ante-natal cases	...	58	Between 1—2 years		969
Still births	...	4	Between 2—3 years		881
Other visits	...	15	Between 3—5 years		603
			Ante-natal cases	...	104
		419			3816

### The Ante-Natal Clinic.

The number of sessions held was 27 and the total attendances made by expectant mothers 582. These were made by 147 women so that 37% of the mothers who were confined during the year had attended for examination.

Dr. Marie Ellis, the Medical Officer of the Ante-Natal Clinic reports that abnormalities found were :—

Disproportion	...	...	2	
Eclampsia and Toxaemia			4	
Severe varicose veins	...	21		This condition is becoming much more prevalent.

Other conditions found were :—

Acute appendicitis	...	2		
Epilepsy	...	...	1	
Poisoning from hair dye	...	1		Simulating pregnancy and
Asthma	...	...	1	toxaemia

### Orthopaedic Treatment.

Twenty-five infants attended for treatment and eighteen of these were new cases. One was referred to the Orthopaedic Hospital at Bath for in-patient treatment. Another infant who had been discharged from this Hospital in February had to be re-admitted in August and was there at the end of the year.

Two infants notified as suffering from Acute Poliomyelitis in September were also sent to the Orthopaedic Hospital at Bath, special arrangements being made to secure their safe transit.

### Artificial Sunlight Treatment.

This clinic is now open from the beginning of October to the end of May and is closed during the summer months. The number of sessions held was 98. The total attendance numbered 2,508 of which 1,729 were made by infants. Each child attending is examined by me at least once every four weeks. The number of infants who were advised to attend for treatment was 52; of these 35 attended. Twenty-one were under treatment at the end of the year.

Particulars of the cases are as follows :—

Disease or Defect.	No. referred for treatment.	No. attended for treatment.	Average No. of exposures per case.	Remarks.
Rickets ...	23	14	50.5	Activity of disease arrested and marked improvement in all.
General Debility	20	17	35.1	
Nervous Type ...	5	1	38.0	Four ceased to attend after insufficient trt. One shewed improvement.
Skin Diseases ... (non tub.)	4	3	17.7	Three cured. One could not continue to attend, but improved.

**Foster Children.**

All foster children are under the supervision of the Health Visitor until they become five years of age, when their supervision passes to the School Nurses, who are responsible until they attain nine years of age. The number of children on the register at the beginning of the year was sixteen and at the end also sixteen.

In this district many mothers go out to work in factories, and their younger children are placed in other houses during the day time and a payment is made for this. There is at present no power to require registration under such circumstances. Some of the homes in which these children are placed are not suitable, while the women who undertake to do this are frequently elderly and unsuitable for this purpose.

I consider that powers similar to those for foster children should be applicable to these children who are received for the day time only.

**Provision of Free Milk.**

Milk is provided free under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders in the amount of one pint per day to :—

- (1) Expectant mothers in the last three months of pregnancy
- (2) Nursing Mothers
- (3) Infants under 3 years of age until the 29th June when the age was increased to 5 years.

when after enquiry the total income is proved to be under a certain amount per head after deduction of rent.

Orders for free milk are given only after a signed and authenticated application is received.

The order is made out for a period not exceeding 28 days and the applicant is required to attend the Infant Welfare Centre with the children receiving milk on certain fixed days.

The approximate amount of milk supplied to applicants was 14,587 pints at a cost of £191 9s. 1d.

The number of families supplied was 68.

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR IN 1936.

CAUSE.				Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total under 1 year
Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septicaemia	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Syphilis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broncho-pneumonia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Births	...	...	...	5	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Marasmus	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Defects	...	...	...	7	—	—	1	8	—	1	—	—	9
Accident	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Birth Injury	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Intussusception	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	15	—	—	1	16	1	1	1	—	19

# ANALYSIS OF AGES OF DEATH UNDER 15 YEARS IN 1936.

	MALES.		FEMALES.		Total
	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Legitimate	Illegitimate	
1 day	3	2	6	—	11
1 day—1 week	1	—	3	—	4
1 week—4 weeks	1	—	—	—	1
1 month—3 months	1	—	—	—	1
3 months—6 months	1	—	—	—	1
6 months—9 months	—	—	1	—	1
9 months—12 months	—	—	—	—	—
1 year—2 years	—	—	1	—	1
2 years—3 years	1	—	2	—	3
3 years—4 years	—	—	—	—	—
4 years—5 years	—	—	—	—	—
5 years—10 years	1	—	3	—	4
10 years—15 years	1	—	—	—	1
	10	2	16	—	28



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply.

The rainfall on the watershed was almost 41 inches which is in excess of the average. The supply was satisfactory in quantity.

Sets of samples were taken for bacteriological examination twice a month. Each set included (1) the raw water (2) the water from the filter beds after filtration and chlorination and (3) water from a main tap in the Town.

All except four of the main tap samples were satisfactory. The unsatisfactory ones were as follows :—

21st January	...	B. Coli present in 30 c.c.
3rd June	...	B. Coli present in 30 c.c.
4th November	...	B. Coli present in 30 c.c.
19th November	...	B. Coli present in 30 c.c.

From these it appears that the water was not on these dates entirely satisfactory in quality, for these results should not be obtained from a properly chlorinated supply.

### Closet Accommodation.

With very few exceptions, and these only in the outlying parts of the town, all the closets are on the water carriage system. Many of the older working class houses, apart from those being dealt with in the Slum Clearance Programme, have no separate water closets and join at one with several other houses. This condition is most unsatisfactory and steps will be taken to remedy it when the pressure of work due to Slum Clearance has diminished.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

A new sewer 4,100 feet long, with a small pumping station consisting of two six inch pumps, was laid from the Halcon Housing Estate to the Sewage Disposal Works. A sewer 2,600 feet long was laid from the South Road to Holway Road.

### Public Cleansing.

House refuse is collected twice a week from all parts of the Town except during certain holiday periods.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector is given on pages 24 to 30 and includes particulars of action taken under the Shops Act 1934.

**Smoke Abatement.**

There was no occasion to take action.

**Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There is one public swimming bath owned by the Taunton Corporation. The water is filtered and chlorinated.

**Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

Trials have been made of various agents for this purpose. These included nascent Sulphur Dioxide and various proprietary compounds of a liquid and a gaseous nature. These did not appear to be potent enough to destroy the eggs and it was therefore decided to use Prussic Acid or Hydrogen Cyanide for this purpose. A contract was entered into with a firm specializing in this work. This included the removal and fumigation of all furniture and effects except bedding from houses in Slum Clearance Areas to Council houses. The bedding is removed and put through the steam disinfecter on the same day that the furniture is treated. The contract also makes provision for the fumigation of houses by the same method and in such cases adjoining premises are vacated for a period of 24 hours or over.

No of houses found to be infested.		No. disinfested.
a. Council houses	6	6 — by HCN
b. Other houses	3	3 — by SO <sub>2</sub>

**Schools.**

There are fourteen public elementary schools in the town, and these were all inspected during the year.

In some of the older schools built about sixty years, there is a lack of light and air and these do not comply with modern requirements in many ways. The trough closet persists in three of these schools. Town water is supplied to all, but there is a lack of proper means of obtaining it for drinking purposes in several of the schools.



### HOUSING.

Considerable progress has been made in the duty of Slum Clearance during the year and Official Representations dealing with 340 unfit houses in Clearance Areas were made. I also completed a personal inspection of most of the older working class dwelling houses and as a result the programme presented in September 1933 was increased. The position at the end of December 1936 was therefore as follows :—

	No. of unfit housed.		No. of new houses required.			
	Defined in Clearance Areas.	Not defined in Clearance Areas.	Two Bedrooms.	Three Bedrooms.	Four Bedrooms.	Total.
<b>First Programme</b> in response to Circ. 1138—624 houses to be dealt with in 10 years. This was superseded by Circ. 1331 ...	109		59	23	15	97
<b>Second Programme</b> in response to Circ. 1331—598 houses in 5 years. Increased to 772 by addition of other unfit houses ...	648	—	415	50	47	512
	—	124	83	10	7	11
Further extension of Programme		167	123	17	15	155
	757	291	680	100	84	864
	1048					
In addition under Part II of Housing Act 1930.						
Action taken ... ..	17		2	15	—	17
Action to be taken ...	11		8	1	2	11
	1076		690	116	86	892
There are also 100 one bed-room flats required for aged persons ...						100
Total houses required for all programmes ...						992

As regards re-housing 509 houses had either been erected or were in course of erection and 483 were required to complete the programmes.

Four Public Inquiries into objections against Clearance Orders dealing with 374 houses were held on 7th January, 22nd April, 15th September and 17th November.

**HOUSING STATISTICS.****1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—**

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts ... ..	661
(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose	926
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ... ..	162
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	197
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	359
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	215

**2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:—**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	151
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**3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—**

(a) Proceedings under section 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repair ... ..	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	
(a) By owner ... ..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner ... ..	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	13

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a)	By owners ... ..	12
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—
(c)	Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of Housing Act, 1930 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	4
(d)	Proceedings under Section 20 of Housing Act, 1930 :—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	1
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit ... ..	1

### Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding.

(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	110
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein. No information	
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	760
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	—
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	7
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	49½
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps to abate the overcrowding ... ..	—
(c)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... ..	Nil

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### The Milk Supply.

The premises registered for this purpose are as follows :—

Number of producers on the register	...	...	8
Number of distributors who are distributors only	57		
Number of distributors who are also producers	6		

### The Milk (Special Designations) Order 1923.

Under this Order the various grades of milk were :—" Certified " ; " Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) " ; " Grade A " and " Pasteurised. "

This Order was revoked by the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936, which came into force on the 1st June 1936. Under the new Order the Grades recognised are (1) " Tuberculin Tested " (2) " Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised " (3) " Accredited " and (4) " Pasteurised. "

All these milks are tested periodically for cleanliness and can only be sold under a Licence from the appropriate Local Authority.

" Tuberculin Tested " means milk from cows which have passed the tuberculin test for freedom from Tuberculosis.

" Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) " is tuberculin tested milk which is also pasteurised.

" Pasteurised " is milk which has been heated at 145° Fahr for 30 minutes to destroy any disease germs.

" Accredited " is milk from cows which have passed a veterinary inspection, but not a test for tuberculosis.

In this town, " Tuberculin Tested " ; " Pasteurised " and " Accredited " are on sale.

Licences have been granted to two producers of " Pasteurised " milk and two Licences to bottle Tuberculin Tested Milk.

### Meat and Other Foods.

There are eleven slaughter-houses in the Borough. Four of these are subject to annual Licences and seven are registered. Particulars relating to the inspection of meat and shewing the numbers killed and condemnations are given in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector on page 26.

**Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

This is done by Mr. D. R. Wood, F.I.C. Public Analyst of the County of Somerset in the laboratories at the County Hall, Taunton.

**Nutrition.**

It has not been possible to undertake any special work for the dissemination of knowledge of this subject.

## **PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

### **Measles.**

The epidemic which commenced in September 1935 continued until the end of March 1936. The total number of cases notified was 620 and the number of deaths was 3 (occurring in 1935). The measures taken to cope with it were described on page 22 of my Report for 1935.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

Forty-one cases of this were notified and thirty of these were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

It is now believed that the cases of sore throat and other manifestations, without a rash or with a rash of a very transient nature are due to the same cause as Scarlet Fever. Under these circumstances the old policy of removing all recognised cases to Hospital and thereby hoping to prevent the spread of infection has been modified and removed to Hospital is now required only when the home circumstances are unsatisfactory or when other circumstances such as the sale of food on the premises render this imperative.

### **Diphtheria.**

Forty-seven cases of this were notified and were all removed to the Isolation Hospital. This disease requires particular nursing, which is seldom available in the ordinary home.

A scheme for the immunization of all children between 1 and 5 years of age has been promulgated by the Somerset County Council. I have hesitated to advise your participation in this for if only a small proportion (under 30%) of the children at this age are immunized there is likely to be a higher incidence of the disease for those so treated will not suffer but may carry the infection.

### **Enteric Fever.**

One of the two cases notified had apparently contracted this while resident at Poole in Dorset.

I am able to obtain early information of infectious disease occurring in school children through the activities of the two School Nurses who are also the only School Attendance Officers. They report to me all suspicious cases where no doctor is in attendance and in such cases visits are made to check the diagnosis and secure appropriate treatment.



NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1936.

	AGE GROUPS OF ALL CASES NOTIFIED												Deaths	
	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years	15 to 20 years	20 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 years and over		Total
Small-pox	—	3	2	3	5	20	6	—	—	—	—	—	41	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	1	1	22	11	2	8	2	—	—	48	30
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	7	48
Diphtheria (bact.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	7
Enteric Fever, including Paratyphoid	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(a)
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	2	—	—	1	2	1
Pneumonia—Acute Primary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4	—
—Influenzal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	2	—
Erysipelas...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	(b)
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
German Measles	4	20	15	15	6	28	22	6	13	1	—	—	130	—
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	4	—

(a) General Hospital.

(b) Childrens' Orthopaedic Hospital Bath.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
5	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
15	—	4	—	—	—	3	—	1
25	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
45	2	2	—	—	3	2	—	1
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Totals	6	8	1	1	7	7	2	6

Non notified 2.



## CAUSES OF DEATH 1936.

CAUSE.	M.	F.	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—
2. Measles ...	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria ...	—	1	1
6. Influenza ...	2	1	3
7. Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—
8. Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	8	6	14
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	2	6	8
11. Syphilis ...	1	—	1
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis ...	1	—	1
13. Cancer, malignant disease ...	25	30	55
14. Diabetes ...	5	1	6
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage etc. ...	6	5	11
16. Heart Disease ...	56	47	103
17. Aneurysm ...	—	—	—
18. Other Circulatory Diseases ...	8	12	20
19. Bronchitis ...	1	6	7
20. Pneumonia (all forms) ...	7	7	14
21. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	1	2
22. Peptic Ulcer ...	2	1	3
23. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ...	—	1	1
24. Appendicitis ...	—	—	—
25. Cirrhosis of Liver ...	—	—	—
26. Other Diseases of the Liver etc. ...	—	1	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases ...	3	2	5
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	9	10	19
29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—	—
30. Other Puerperal Causes ...	—	2	2
31. Congenital Debility, premature birth, malformations, etc. ...	7	10	17
32. Senility ...	1	8	9
33. Suicide ...	2	3	5
34. Other violence ...	8	8	16
35. Other Defined Diseases ...	16	13	29
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	—	—	—
Total ...	171	182	353

Special causes (included in No. 35 above)

Small-pox ...	—	—	—
Polio myelitis ...	—	—	—
Polio encephalitis ...	—	—	—

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1936.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses.  
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1936.

### Summary of Visits and Inspections.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	153
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	10
Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	49
Stables	...	...	...	...	14
Infectious disease, in connection with	...	...	...	...	218
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	1,082
Foodshops (including markets)	...	...	...	...	117
Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	661
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	57
General Inspections	...	...	...	...	406
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	1,303
Drainage, in connection with	...	...	...	...	217
Smoke visits and observations	...	...	...	...	15
Disinfestation of effects of Council house tenants by H.C.N.					
process, in connection with	...	...	...	...	101
Visits to verminous premises	...	...	...	...	30
Overcrowding Survey, in connection with	...	...	...	...	3,568
Rats and Mice Destruction, in connection with	...	...	...	...	22
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	8
Houses let in lodgings	...	...	...	...	8
Shops Act Inspections	...	...	...	...	91
Refuse disposal	...	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	31

### Work Done.

Removals of manure and refuse	...	...	...	...	1
Privy middens emptied and cleansed	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	33
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	25
Defective rainwater conductors cleansed and repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	14

Defective windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	62
Defective floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	61
Defective staircases repaired	...	...	...	8
Defective wastepipes repaired	...	...	...	30
Defective coppers repaired	...	...	...	1
Defective ceilings repaired	...	...	...	41
Defective plaster on walls repaired	...	...	...	63
Defective grates, flues repaired	...	...	...	22
Defective doors repaired	...	...	...	8
Defective W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	40
Defective drains amended	...	...	...	13
Urinals cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	2
W.C.'s cleansed or limewashed	...	...	...	15
New sinks provided	...	...	...	28
Drains tested	...	...	...	8
Drains unchoked	...	...	...	6
Drains exposed for examination	...	...	...	14
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	6
Additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	5
Pedestal W.C.'s substituted for hoppers	...	...	...	41
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	15
Water supply provided indoors	...	...	...	9
Ventilated foodstores provided	...	...	...	43
Ceilings whitened	...	...	...	52
Walls redecorated	...	...	...	64
Damp walls waterproofed	...	...	...	27
Thresholds provided	...	...	...	2
Skirtings repaired	...	...	...	4
Ventilation provided	...	...	...	17
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	...	36
Samples of milk (Grade T.T.) taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	15
Samples of milk (Pasteurised) taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	39
Samples of milk (Accredited) taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	8
Samples of milk taken for test for tubercle bacilli	...	...	...	1
Samples of drinking water taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	6
Informal notices served	...	...	...	208
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	19
<b>Disinfection.</b>				.
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	25
Articles of bedding, clothing etc., disinfected	...	...	...	186
Articles of bedding, clothing etc., destroyed	...	...	...	28
Articles of bedding, clothing etc., disinfested	...	...	...	11

**Inspection of Meat and other Foods.**

Notices received under Article 8, Public Health (Meat)	
Regulations, 1924	34
Notices received under Article 8, para. 2, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	3
Notices received under Article 9, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	91
Visits made to slaughterhouses	1,082
Visits made to foodshops (including markets)	117
Total number of condemnations	4,803

**Classification of Diseases.****GENERALISED TUBERCULOSIS :—**

Cattle	2
Swine	56

**LOCALISED TUBERCULOSIS :—**

(a) Bovines	21
(b) Swine	4,432

**WEIGHT OF TUBERCULAR MEAT CONDEMNED :—**

29 tons, 3 cwts. 2 qrs. 26 lbs.

**OTHER DISEASES :—**

	Carcases	Parts of carcases
Beef	1	11
Mutton	2	4
Pork	7	259

Weight of same :—3 tons, 2 qrs.

**Other Foods.**

Jellied Veal	18½ lbs.
Tinned Chicken	1½ „
Tinned Ham	6½ „
Cheese	9 „
Skate	14 „
Tinned Tongue	7 „
Jellied Pork	2¼ „
Pressed Cheek	7 „

Total weight of food destroyed :—

32 tons, 4 cwts. 3 qrs. 8 lbs.

**NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED IN THE BOROUGH DURING THE YEAR :—**

Bullocks	1,120
Calves	276
Sheep	5,345
Pigs	23,019

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29,760

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**SHOPS ACT, 1934—SECTION 10.**

Number of shops inspected ..... 99

Particulars of defects found in shops	Defects		Informal notices served	Statutory notices served
	Found	Remedied		
Unsuitable or insufficient sanitary conveniences ...	8	8	8	—
Insufficient ventilation ...	1	1	1	—
Lack of means to maintain a reasonable temperature ...	2	2	2	—
Insufficient lighting ...	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or insufficient washing facilities ...	2	1	2	—
Unsuitable facilities for the taking of meals ...	—	—	—	—

The administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 in connection with

## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

### 1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
<b>Factories</b> (Including Factory Laundries) ...	7	2	—
<b>Workshops</b> (Including Workshop Laundries) ...	12	3	—
<b>Workplaces</b> (Other than Outworkers' premises) ...	12	1	—
Total ...	32	6	—

### 2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness ...	4	4	—	—
Other nuisances ...	1	1	—	—
Sanitary accommodation :—				
Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	1	—	—
Total ...	7	6	—	—



**METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.**

The observations below are recorded at the Municipal Buildings and Vivary Park.

The daily rainfall and the total rainfall for the year were sent to the British Rainfall Organisation, Air Ministry, London, S.W. Weekly reports on the rainfall and sunshine were also supplied to the local press.

The highest observed reading of the Barometer during the year was 30.62 on 23rd December at 9 a.m. whilst the lowest was 28.85 on 20th January at the same hour.

The highest temperature registered in the Stephenson Screen during the year was 82.0° on 30th August. The lowest was 22.0° on 4th February, 21st November and 13th December.

The day of the highest mean temperature of the air was 21st June, and the value for that day 70.0°. The days of the lowest mean temperature were 4th and 12th February, 28th November and 13th December, when 32.0° was registered.

The mean temperature for the year was 49.5°, as compared with 50.3° for 1935.

The greatest duration of bright sunshine for any one day was 14.5 hours recorded on 24th June.

August was the sunniest month with 214.75 hours of bright sunshine as compared with 275.5 hours in July, 1935, and 298.75 hours in July, 1934. June was also the warmest month, and February, November and December the coldest. The total amount of bright sunshine for the year was 1340.80 hours as compared with 1612.75 hours in 1935 and 1687.00 hours in 1934. There were 66 sunless days compared with 53 in 1935 and 59 in 1934.

The heaviest fall of rain in any one "rainfall" day i.e. 24 hours ending at 9 a.m. next day, was 0.75 inches on 13th December, as compared with 0.79 inches on 30th November, 1935, and 0.83 inches on 28th December, 1934.

July was the wettest month with 4.475 inches of rain, January coming next with 3.95 inches, whilst August was the driest with 0.185 inches. Rain fell on 188 days and the total rainfall for the year was 29.47 inches, as compared with 33.535 inches for 1935 with 191 wet days, and 26.755 inches for 1934 with 173 wet days for the same year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. GOUGH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## METEOROLOGICAL TABLE FOR 1936.



MONTH	Barometer			Thermometer			Sunshine		Rainfall		
	Mean	Highest	Lowest	Mean	Highest	Lowest	Hours	Sunless Days	Inches	Days rain fell	Days with .04 or more
January	29.24	30.21	28.85	41.4°	54.0°	34.0°	41.05	13	3.95	26	20
February	29.61	30.34	28.91	38.2°	49.0°	32.0°	76.20	9	2.335	16	11
March	29.75	30.23	29.22	45.2°	53.5°	35.5°	81.5	9	2.615	16	11
April	29.88	30.34	29.03	43.9°	55.5°	36.5°	145.75	5	1.73	14	10
May	29.96	30.29	29.64	52.8°	62.0°	45.0°	202.50	2	1.65	7	6
June	29.96	30.18	29.66	58.6°	70.0°	48.5°	153.75	3	2.805	12	11
July	29.79	30.28	29.48	60.1°	64.0°	53.5°	133.25	1	4.475	26	22
August	30.07	30.35	29.64	60.9°	67.5°	55.5°	214.75	—	1.85	6	2
September	30.31	30.36	29.49	58.6°	66.5°	44.5°	99.25	3	2.05	15	12
October	30.07	30.25	29.50	48.3°	58.0°	40.5°	100.25	3	1.33	12	8
November	29.86	30.45	28.86	42.8°	54.5°	32.0°	43.00	10	3.175	19	15
December	30.36	30.62	29.38	42.7°	53.5°	32.0°	49.55	8	3.17	19	13
	29.92		49.5	49.5			134.00				









